



PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Gilbert M. Aust et al.  
Serial No. : 09/707,445  
(Reissue of U.S. Patent  
No. 5,540,706, issued  
July 30, 1996)  
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For : SURGICAL INSTRUMENT  
Group Art Unit : 3731  
Examiner : Michael H. Thaler  
Attorney Docket No. : A31-2047RE

Commissioner for Patents  
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**SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION FOR REISSUE**

Sir:

I, Gene DiPoto, hereby declare that:

- (a) The errors that were corrected in the subject reissue application are shown in the amendment of claims 3 and 5-7, the cancellation of claims 8 and 9, and the addition of claims 10 and 11.
- (b) Every error in the patent which was corrected in the present reissue application, and is not covered by the prior declaration submitted in this application, arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the inventors or the assignee, for whom I am an authorized representative; and

- (c) All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date

6/24/04

Gene DiPoto  
Gene DiPoto  
Vice President  
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